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HALF-FARES FOR THE STRAPS.

It is an axiom of the street car transportation business that the dividends are in the straps. That is, the profits are in the failure to give adequate service; in getting the public's money for service which isn't rendered to it. All over the country there is an uprising against the further acceptance of this rule of the business. It is realized that the public is entitled to what it pays for, and that it ought to pay in proportion as it is served.

That is why the Norris measure to provide half-fares for the strap-hangers is worthy of commendation. Overcrowding of cars is unsafe, unhealthy, and altogether objectionable. If the straps were taken out of the cars and the water out of the shares, there would be no difficulty making ends meet and earning substantial returns on capital actually invested. Congress and the Public Utilities Commission are directing their efforts at these twin eliminations, and the public may reasonably hope for better conditions before long.

INFLATING CARRANZA'S BALLOON?

It is very important in Mexico that a man aspiring to be admired should keep his personal glory beautifully burnished. In Mexico it would be impossible for anybody to be a popular leader who could, under any circumstances, bend his knee before the United States.

Suppose in our State Department there should be the deep craft of a Talleyrand. Suppose on the international checkerboard it should play with a finesse looking far beyond the present and working ends to ordinary eyes undiscoverable. Suppose it should seem a very cunning thing to make it appear to the Mexicans that Carranza was great enough and valiant enough to dare to rebuff the United States Government.

Well, that wouldn't do Carranza any harm with the Mexican people. Americans are a material, practical race. What they want is results.

So now if some Talleyrand in our State Department should be playing a subtle game like that, secretly letting guns and gold slip into Carranza's hands, yet making it appear to the Mexicans that Carranza could defy the wishes of anybody except the Mexicans and scorn the help of anybody except the Mexicans—why then grape juice statecraft might be delivering the goods!

THE CASE OF MISS BURNS.

Miss Lucy Burns, suffragist leader, has submitted to arrest on a warrant which the police department has issued, charging her with responsibility for chalking on the sidewalks notices of suffrage meetings.

The activity and zeal of our police authorities in this case justify much satisfaction to the public. It is a good thing to see how much more enthusiasm is displayed about looking after the public interest than was manifested, say, on March 3 last. Plainly, the police department is going to show the ladies, who complained bitterly at that time, that it can be tremendously efficient when it feels that way. Possibly the ladies will have some doubts about the desirability of having all the efficiency aimed against them, instead of having some of it work for them occasionally; but they must not be hypercritical. They don't understand the business of government, anyhow; they are only women.

The prosecution of Miss Burns, in this instance, leads up to hope that presently there will be a recrudescence of police interest in running down some of the robbery, hold-up, and other serious cases which in large numbers have gone unexplained and unpunished in this Capital. The department by beginning at the bottom, with the modest little offenders—the people who leave word where they can be found if an officer drops in to arrest them during the lunch hour—will accumulate a lot of experience that may in time serve it in good stead when there is a real crime to be ferreted out or a public parade to be protected.

NOT IN THE RIGHT TONE.

The Senate committee is deadlocked because the banking interest has gained the ascendancy. When privilege is on the defensive, action postponed is action defeated. The failure of the Senate committee to agree is not an intellectual accident. It is a prearranged triumph for the national banks.—New York World.

The bankers' arguments have led to the delay in the Senate there is no denying. Those arguments have led to changes which President Wilson himself deems advisable in the Administration bill and the logic of which Chairman Glass, of the House committee, himself assents to.

As to further delay, the banking and business interests are still contending for four points. The chief of these, the one most sharply fought for, is provision for the redemption of the United States' promises to pay in gold and not in paper.

It is strictly possible that no such crisis would come as to make Government notes meaningless pieces of paper. It is not for fear of such a crisis that the "or lawful money" clause is being condemned. If such a crisis did come, the bankers would suffer less than the general public trying to meet sky-high prices. If it does not come, they are certainly no better off than the public for having the nation's credit unimpaired.

In all these four points at issue there is now no reason why satisfactory agreement should not be reached. The bill that was 80 per cent good has been made more than 80 per cent good. But to

get even this much out of it in final enactment, compromise and conciliation are necessary.

The banking interests would clearly be blame-worthy were they to stand out for the last petty item of their claims and thus end hope of the bill's passage. None the less blameworthy is any such demagogic and unsubstantiated statement as the above, which can only incite the other side to ill-advised obstinacy.

THE PUBLIC COMFORT STATIONS.

The War Department authorities, in control of park spaces, have undertaken a plan of improvement, in the matter of public comfort stations, that does not impress the community as an improvement at all. In some of the parks it is removing these very necessary and desirable establishments away from their central locations, to sites on the borders of the parks, immediately adjacent to the sidewalks, and under the windows of homes across the street.

This plan has been adopted as to the stations at Lincoln Park, Franklin Park, and Lafayette Park. No obvious necessity for the change is apparent. A chorus of protest has gone up from the neighborhoods affected, and there is good reason for it. Taking the neighborhoods as a whole, the establishments will be no more accessible, on the average, than when located in the centers of the parks; and they will be vastly more objectionable to the people of the immediate neighborhoods concerned.

The District Commissioners have no authority in the matter, though they should have. The wishes of the people immediately affected seem to be of small concern to the military people who are making the changes. The Commissioners sent Assistant Corporation Counsel Whiteford to present their views to the War Department, and urge that the comfort stations be handled in such a manner as to assure the greatest measure of benefits with the least objection to the neighborhoods.

In the case of Dupont Circle, when Congress made a large appropriation to establish a comfort station of the underground and, therefore, the least offensive type, in an objectionable location, the nearby residents entered a protest, and the action was promptly rescinded. It is not apparent that the wealthy and socially important people of the Dupont section ought to be granted a special consideration in such affairs that is to be denied to other people. It was natural enough that the objections should be made, and it was proper to yield to the objections that were advanced; but the same rule should be applied in other neighborhoods.

"PRACTICAL" CONSERVATION.

The practical men in the conservation congress protested vigorously against regulation which would retard the development of water powers. They insisted that with conditions imposed upon the tenure and operation of water powers, money could not be secured with which to develop them. None the less, the convention by an overwhelming majority voted against this "practical" view, and sustained the policy that was laid down by Roosevelt, developed under Fisher, and is today accepted by the country as the one assurance of safeguarding the national interests.

A generation and two generations ago this "practical" view applied to the development of the forests, the coal, the public domain, and the rest of the natural resources of the country. Give 'em to anybody that would develop 'em; that was the slogan. The same rule was applied to the franchises of the cities, which wanted modern traction, electric, and gas lights, power, and the like. Franchises were given for almost any term that was asked on practically whatever terms were suggested. Now the cities are everywhere fighting to determine whether they are in the hands of perpetual monopolies, and legislatures and courts are striving to modify the grants that were made so freely and with almost no effective conditions.

Let the "practical" view of water power, which has been defeated in the conservation congress, prevail in the national legislature, and a generation hence will see the country striving to undo the mistakes of this era. It may be urged that capital is unwilling to finance the developments unless it gets assurance of unregulated monopoly. But more likely, capital is holding off to get everything it can. Let a proper policy once be definitely adopted, and conditions will adjust themselves to it. The failure of the "practical" view to capture a gathering in which determined efforts had been made to secure control, indicates that it is going to be very difficult to reverse the national sentiment on this subject.

LORD COWDRAY'S SURRENDER.

Lord Cowdray, who was Sir Weetman Pearson, head of the vast Anglo-Mexican group in oil, railroads, mines and pretty nearly everything else, has appealed to the United States Government for protection. Lord Cowdray has for a long time been the invisible government in Mexico, except that his operations have been so bold, under Diaz and later under Huerta, that the invisible government was thoroughly visualized in his person. He has been suspected, for very good reasons, of intrigue with the British government to keep its sympathies on the Huerta side. At the bottom the British admiralty's ambition to establish an independent course of oil supplies for its navy has been credited with much of the kindly interest it has taken in the Pearson enterprises.

The Washington Government is asked to protect the Pearson concerns in Mexico, and incidentally is given, rather tardily it would appear, the assurance that it has not been and is not now giving financial aid to Huerta. It will be unnecessary to pry too far into the quality of this disclaimer. It is enough to know that Cowdray now does repudiate Huerta before the world. That fact will not fail to impress the fact that Huerta's most wealthy and potent friend sees the inevitable, and is getting under cover.

It should be possible before very long now to force the hand of Huerta by the processes of starvation. Perhaps his customs revenues will have to be shut off; if so, the United States is able easily enough to apply the right pressure at the right places.

THIS & THAT

With Sometimes a Little of the Other

DEFIANCE.

I want to pay an income tax!—
To gratify a passion
To—kindly make no idle cracks:
I know that it's the fashion
To put such phrases at the end,
But I ain't gonna do it.
I want a lot of coin to spend,
And that's all there is to it.

I want to pay the—what care I
For rules of verse construction?
Because some poor, misguided guy
Once put on a production
Wherein the nub brought up the rear,
Does that make it requisite?
Am I obliged to trail him here?

I'll leave it out entirely!

CLIFFORD T. MYNDOTT.

The plan of Senator Norris to issue rebates to strap-hangers is a good one—but it wouldn't work. Its practical defects are many; also obvious—too obvious to be listed in even this col. The statistics on the subject show over 10,000 methods of wasting time, and endeavoring to legislate fairness and decency into public service corporations is one of the most prominent.

Secret service corporations, one might call them.

We Wouldn't Know Where To Put It.
G. S. K.: I still have that good contribution. Will you pay for it if I send it to you?

M. M. M.

True story:
Conclusion of a large evening. Two middle-aged gentlemen reclining in easy chairs at club. (Inebriate vocal mannerisms omitted.)

Number one (evidently the host):
"Well, it's been a not unfavorable evening. We had something to eat, and something to drink, and—something to drink, and something to eat. It's been a not unfavorable evening—not unfavorable."

Number two (desiring to acquiesce completely): "Very not! Very not!"

You Can't, But There Was Once One That Began With a Mystery.

Sir: Was ever there story by E. Phillips Oppenheim, the opening scene of which did not happen in a restaurant? And where can I get it?

G. Y. O.

"It is now a foregone conclusion," says the "Post," "that Mr. McCombs will again decline the tender of the ambassadorship to France." In the bright lexicon of Mr. William McCombs there is no such thing as foregone conclusion. Nor conclusion of any other kind.

WE ARE STUMPED FOR A HEAD.
(From the Kittanning, Pa., "Leader.")
LOST—Gold cuff link, with amethyst setting between Boston trolley station and Roanoke. Finder please leave at Roanoke store.

A friend of ours writes us anent a newspaper to which he is a subscriber, and which reaches him thrice a month or thereabouts. "Its circulation is sluggish," he says.

Current bromidism: "I wish it would stay this way all winter. I wouldn't care if it never got cold."

We Cannot Thank You Enough.

Sir: If it weren't for my calling attention to it you probably wouldn't ever know that the Pennsylvania turkey farmer who broke into print yesterday, in a spiel about the high prices of the birds, is J. P. Brent.

A. B. N.

Mileage-hunting Congressmen are admonished to hesitate and reckon. The game's not worth the scandal.

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow colored tie.
But when upon my vision glares
One of those new cerise affairs,
My heart lies down to die.

—Yale Record.

My heart leaps up what time I lamp
A multi-colored shirt.
But when upon some gink I pape
The shirting with the crosswise stripes,
It gives one dying spurt.

"Sought Hubby In Man's Garb."—The Herald.

In what else would she expect to find him?

Exit the conservation congress.

FAMILIAR PHRASES.

LI.
The even tenor of its way.

And the paragrapher of the George Washington University "Hatchet" ofters "not prepared."

New style head from the "Hatchet":
MR. NASH ANNOUNCES SPLENDID SCHEDULE: SQUAD REDUCED.

The National Conservation Congress has concluded, but we know no reason why we shouldn't cop its stuff.

Conservation, as we understand it, is the husbanding of natural resources so that the future may be taken care of.

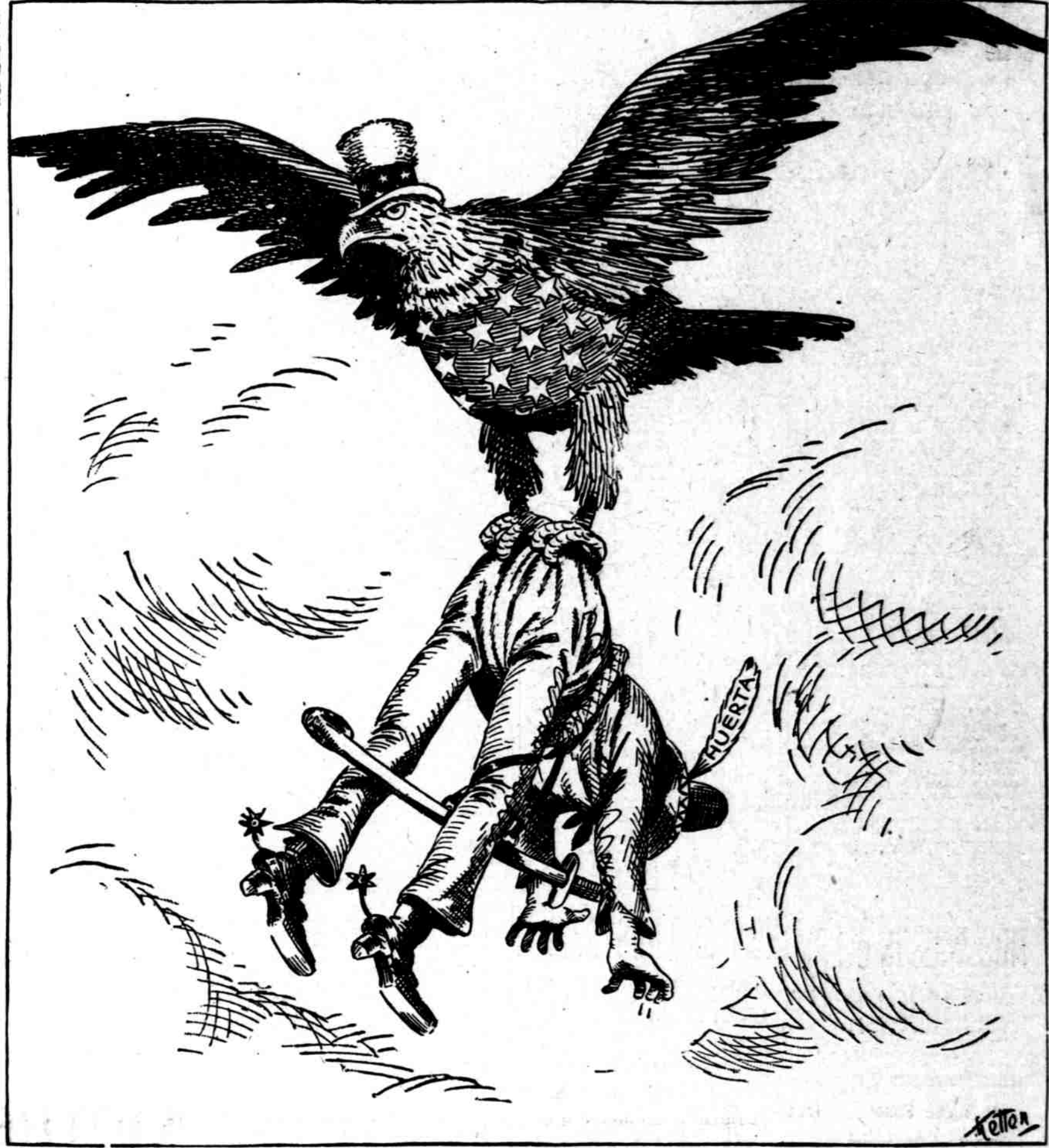
Running one's poorer stuff around the middle of the column, in other words—

So as to have a good last paragraph.
G. S. K.

Whither?

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By Maurice Ketten



Twenty Gems of American Humor

13—THE COURTIN'

By James Russell Lowell.

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OD makes each night, all white an' still
Fur's you can look or listen,
Moonshine an' snow on field an' hill,
All alliance an' all glitster.

Zekie creep' up quite unbeknown
An' peeked in thru the window—
Ap' there sat Hudly all alone,
Uth no one nigh to hinder.

The very room, coz she was in,
Seemed warm from floor to ceiling.
An' she looked full ez rosy as
Ez the apple she was peeling.

'Twas kin' o' kingdom-come to look
On such a blessed creature.
A doggie blushed to a brook
An' modest nor sweeter.

He was six foot o' man, A1,
Clear grit an' human nature.
None couldn't quicker pitch a ton
Down to her very shoe-sole.

Hed sparked it with full twenty gals,
Hed squired 'em, danced 'em, driv' 'em.
Fust this one, an' then that, by spells—
All he couldn't love 'em.

But long o' her his veins could run
All crinkly like curled maple.
The side she bressed full o' sun
Ez a south slope in Ap'ril.

She thought no v'ice had seen a swing
My! when he made "Ole Hundred" ring.
She knowed the Lord was nigher.

An' shed blush scarlet, right in prayer,
When her new mestin'-bonnet
Heed her new mestin'-bonnet
Down to her very shoe-sole.

That night, I tell ye, she looked some!
She seemed to've got a new soul.
For she felt sartain-sure hed come
Down to her very shoe-sole.

She heered a foot, an' knowed it, tu,
An' rushed on the scraper.
All ways to once her feelin's flew.
Like sparks in burnt-up paper.

He kin' o' fittered on the mat,
Some doubtful o' the sekle.
His heart kep' goin' pty-pat,
But hern went pty Zekie.

"You want to see my pa, I s'pose?"
"Wal—no—I come dasignin'—"
"An' gin 'em both her blessin'!"
Agin to-morrow's mornin'.

To say why gals act so or so,
Or don't 'ould be presumin'—
Mobby to mean yes an' say no
Comes natural to women.

He stood a spell on one foot fust,
Then stood a spell on t'other.
An' on one which he felt the wust
He couldn't ha' told ye nuther.

Says he, "I'd rather call agin."
Says she, "Think likely, Mister."
The last word pricked him like a pin.
An'—Wal, he up an' kist her.

When Ma blinly upon 'em slips,
Hudly got pale ez ashes.
An' kin' o' snolly rou' the lips
An' 'tear' round the lashes.

For she was jes' the quiet kind
Whose natures never vary.
Like streams that keep a summer mind
Snowhid in January.

The blood clost round' her heart felt
glued
Too tight for all expression.
Till mother see how matters stood,
An' gin 'em both her blessin'.

Then her red come back like the tide
Down to the Bay o' Fundy.
An' all I know is they was cried
In meelin' come nex Sunday.

Reflections of A Bachelor Girl

BY HELEN ROWLAND

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A LITTLE, lie told for love's sake is better than a bitter truth told for candor's sake.

A wife sometimes gets awfully tired of being a combination rib, backbone, and whole moral anatomy.

There's something so supernal looking about a pretty girl in an apron standing over a cook stove that the sight has convinced many a hardened bachelor that married life would be one long Elysian banquet.

Of course, woman should have perfect faith in her husband, but even the Scriptures don't require that she should go as far as to let him select his own trained nurse.

When a lover begins to demand instead of to plead, love has hit the toboggan slide.

It takes a lot of mental science for an unhappy wife to convince herself that there is no such thing as evil, and that, therefore, her husband must be only "an illusion."

When a girl asks a man to be "nice" to another girl he may be foolish enough to accommodate her, but he needn't be foolish enough to expect to receive her blessing for it.

The "blighted being" is passe. As far as men are concerned, the greatest crime on earth a woman can commit is to be unhappy.

Being poor is nothing; it's being caught without the goods that hurts.

GOOD STORIES

Over-Recommended.

Thrill.

THE foreman of a railway construction gang engaged in a spur near Philadelphia was approached not long since by an Irishman of the gang, who asked about a job for his brother Dennis, relates the Pittsburgh Chronicle.

"He's just as good a man as meself," said Mike. "Can't ye fix him here?" "I guess so," responded the foreman. "Send him here tomorrow mornin'." "In that case," said the foreman, with a grin, "tell Malachi to come and see me, an' I'll give him a job."

What's on the Program in Washington Today

Meetings, evening:
Masonic—Columbia Lodge, No. 3, and Lebanon, No. 7; Hiram Chapter, No. 10; Royal Arch; Columbia Commandery, No. 2; Knights Templar; Marthas Chapter, No. 4, Eastern Star.
Odd Fellows—Central Lodge, No. 1 and Metropolis, No. 16, degree work; Phoenix, No. 23, business; Magene Encampment, No. 4, degree work; Dorcas Lodge, No. 4, Rebekah, degree work.
Red Men—Seneca Tribe, No. 10, 30; Pennsylvania avenue southeast; Minnola Tribe, No. 14, Anacostia; Idaho Council, No. 1, Degree of Pocahontas, Northeast Temple, Twelfth and H streets northeast.
Knights of Pythias—Syracusan Lodge No. 10; Rathbone Temple, No. 8; Pythian Sisters.

Amusements.
National—"Ziegfeld Follies," 8:15 p. m.
Columbia—"Damaged Goods," 8:15 p. m.
Belasco—"The Blindness of Virtue," 8:20 p. m.
Academy—"The Warning," 8:15 p. m.
Poli—"The Right of Way," 8:15 and 8:45 p. m.
Keith—"Vaudeville," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Cosmos—"Vaudeville, continuous."
Cassins—"Vaudeville, afternoon and evening."
Gayety—"Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Arcade Auditorium—Prize fish-walk to night.

Hits From Sharp Wits.

The nation certainly has its hands full of crises. It must pacify Mexico and at the same time settle the Thai case.—Baltimore American.

Miladi says there's one consolation—the smaller the house, the smaller the mortgage.—Commercial-Appeal, Memphis.

One orator in New York says that his understanding about it is that if you call a man a liar in the South he will shoot at you, in the West knock you down, but in the East he'll bet you a quarter you can't prove it.—Augusta Chronicle.

Two may live well on what one may spend foolishly.

Those who cannot stand prosperity will not have it long.—Albany Evening Journal.

Whenever a woman knows a secret she makes every word tell.

ONLY 28 MORE SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

GRANDMA SEZ
My son sez that if some vilmus sent as much time dressin' dolls as they do 'dollar' up, there'd be more little 'smilin' faces on Christmas mornin'.